

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 AID-05 /067 W

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O 290720Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9002

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMERUD PINT, VS, JA

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A. TOKYO 4055; B. STATE 071355

1. SEVERAL HOURS AFTER MY MEETING WITH TOGO (REF A), DIRECTOR FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIAN DIVISION, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF FOREIGN OFFICE, HANABUSA CALLED ME TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF FOREIGN OFFICE STUDY OF POSSIBILITY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO EVACUATION FROM DANANG UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO OUR DEMARCHE. HANABUSA EXPLAINED THAT REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN MADE FOUR OF FIVE DAYS AGO BY GVN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DAN TO JAPANESE EMBASSY SAIGON. IN SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST, FOREIGN OFFICE HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE UNQUOTE TO USE JAPANESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS FOR SUCH PURPOSE (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS). IN CASE OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, SHOULD GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO CHARTER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST DAMAGE OR LOSS SINCE INSURANCE WOULD NOT COVER WAR RISKS. FOREIGN OFFICE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY PERSUADING FINANCE MINISTRY TO COVER SUCH RISKS. IN CASE OF COMMERCIAL SHIPS, FOREIGN OFFICE

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WOULD ANTICIPATE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION

(WHICH, DURING VIETNAM WAR, REFUSED TO MAN SHIPS CALLING AT SOUTH VIETNAMESE PORTS) AND CONCLUDED THAT EVEN UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 10 DAYS FOR SUCH SHIPS TO REACH DANANG. (LOCAL PRESS TODAY IS REPORTING THAT DANANG ALREADY HAS FALLEN, AND FOREIGN OFFICE EVIDENTLY BELIEVES FALL IS IMMINENT IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY OCCURRED.)

2. HANABUSA SAID THAT ON BASIS THIS STUDY OF PROBLEM, JAPANESE CHARGE IN SAIGON HAD INFORMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DAN ON MARCH 28 THAT GOJ SAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR ASSISTING IN EVACUATION FROM DANANG. ACCORDING TO HANABUSA, DAN HAD RESPONDED THAT HE BELIEVED EVACUATION COULD BE MANGED WITH ASSISTANCE HE EXPECTED FOR U.S., THE PHILIPPINES AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA. DAN HAD EMPHASIZED THAT HE MORE CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM OF CARING FOR REFUGEES AFTER THEY RELOCATED AND URGENTLY SOUGHT GOJ AGREEMENT TO ALLOCATE PART OF GRANT AID TO THAT PURPOSE. (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GOJ WILLING TO DO THIS.)

3. HANABUSA SAID THAT FOLLOWING MY MEETING, HE HAD AGAIN REVIEWED PROBLEM WITH VICE MINISTER TOGO WHO WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT GOJ COULD OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE WITH EVACUATION. HANABUSA ADDED THAT OF COURSE FINAL DECISON WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY HIGHEST POLITICAL AUTHORITY, BUT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT EXPECT A MORE FAVORABLE OUTCOME.

4. I URGED THAT GOJ NOT FORECLOSE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER AND REITERATED HOPE THAT IT WOULD FIND SOME WAY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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